



REPORT OF APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TEEN PROJECT

Since 1990 we have had the pleasure of working closely with Alton families and the school district. Funding from the Town of Alton will directly support teens and families from Alton who participate in our projects. The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project (AMTP) was incorporated in 1987 to provide support and expand opportunities for youth and families who struggle with economic, social and emotional challenges. Our goal is to foster resilience and engagement in youth that are struggling so that they may attain academic, social, psychological and job-related success.

We help teens develop five critical assets:

- Meaningful, participatory connection to the school and town community
- Hope for future with access to options for educational and career goals
- Safe and mutually respectful relationships with responsible adults
- Healthy, fun and recreational opportunities with family and peer group
- Positive, competent and prepared attitude school and employment

We serve youth and families whose life circumstances place them at risk for negative outcomes, such as low self-esteem and school failure. Since 1990 we have:

- Provided 40 Alton youth and school based support, long-term mentoring, outdoor adventure trips up to 10 days long and community service (i.e., planting flowers at the Pearson Rd. community building, doing clean-up projects in Alton bay and helping with the current effort to revitalize the site of the old railway station)
- Worked with 12 youth in the middle school alternative program offering monthly adventure outings
- Offered youth programs in conjunction with counselors from Genesis
- Offered four courses for Alton parents
- Teamed up with the Health Educator for 3 years to provide life skills and civic education to students in grade 5-8
- Taught the character education curriculum, *Voices of Love and Freedom* to 6th graders
- Conducted home visits, crisis intervention and provided referral information to parents

Each year 3-4 new middle school youth are referred by the school guidance counselor, teachers and/or parents. They are involved for a minimum of one year and often continue to be involved in high school. During that time they build stable, trusting, long-term mentoring relationships with AMTP staff. Mentors meet weekly with each participant and participants go on wilderness adventure trips, visit higher education institutions, and complete community service projects that help them develop a sense of community responsibility. We attend school meetings on behalf of participants, organize family gatherings, help break down barriers of communication between home and school and assist with crisis intervention and referral information.

Currently, 12 Alton teens are active in our program.

Thank you, Alton, for your support!

Donna M. San Antonio, Executive Director